

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure which is not enabling. The examiner found in particular that “one skilled artisan would not know how to use and/or make the invention (controlling at least one of an automated clutch and an automated transmission) absent the necessary steps”.

Claims 1, 2, and 5-7 stand further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), and claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

In response to the prior art rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), claims 1-3 and 5-7 have been canceled without prejudice by the present amendment. Claims 4 and 8 have been rewritten in independent form.

In response to the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection, the now independent claims 4 and 8 have further been amended to explicitly recite the method steps that are performed by an electronic clutch management system, exactly as disclosed in the specification starting on page 3, line 5:

- “determines a start-up function” (page 3, lines 6-7),
- “delivers the target value for the clutch torque” (line 8), and
- “the start-up function is divided into two phases” (page 4, lines 4-5).

The purpose of this amendment is to more clearly set forth the steps of the claimed method, in a manner that is disclosed and enabled substantially verbatim by the

